CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An extendable rack coupled to a vehicle, the extendable rack comprising:

a retainer fixedly attached to the vehicle; and

a slidable member, slidably attached to the retainer such that sliding the slidable member in a direction away from the retainer extends the extendable rack and sliding the slidable member in a direction toward the retainer retracts the extendable rack, said slidable member having a plurality of holding elements for holding items on the extendable rack.

2. The extendable rack of claim 1 wherein the retainer is fixedly attached to the vehicle by being mounted against one of a utility rack coupled to the vehicle and a ceiling portion of the vehicle.

3. The extendable rack of claim 2 wherein at least a portion of the slidable member having holding elements can be positioned beyond a rear portion of the vehicle when the extendable rack is extended.

4. The extendable rack of claim 3 wherein the retainer and slidable member are tubular in shape and coaxially disposed with respect to one another.

5. The extendable rack of claim 4 wherein at least one of the holding elements is a hook.

6. The extendable rack of claim 4 wherein at least one of the holding elements is an aperture configured for receiving a retaining ball attached to a cord.

7. The extendable rack of claim 6 further comprising a notch integral to the aperture.

8. The extendable rack of claim 4 further comprising a reinforcement insert coaxially disposed within the slidable member.

9. The extendable rack of claim 8 wherein the slidable member is comprised of polyvinyl chloride plastic.

10. The extendable rack of claim 8 wherein the reinforcement insert is comprised of wood and plastic.

11. An extendable rack comprising:

a tubular shaped retainer having a slit extending longitudinally along a length of the retainer; and

a slidable member with at least a portion of the slidable member coaxially disposed within the retainer, the slidable member having at least one of a circular aperture having an integral notch configured for receiving a retaining ball and a hook attached to the slidable member.

12. The extendable rack of claim 11 further comprising a mounting strip for mounting the extendable rack to a surface.

13. The extendable rack of claim 12 further comprising a support strip coupled between the mounting strip and the retainer.

14. The extendable rack of claim 11 further comprising a retaining ball and cord assembly, said retaining ball and cord assembly being capable of being attached to the slidable member by inserting the retaining ball within the circular aperture and allowing the cord to protrude through the integral notch.

15. A method of hanging items on a rack comprising:

providing a tubular shaped retainer having a slit extending longitudinally along a length of the retainer;

providing a tubular shaped slidable member with at least a portion of the slidable member coaxially disposed within the retainer, the slidable member having at least one of a circular aperture and a hook attached to the slidable member with a portion of the hook aligned with said slit in the retainer;

sliding the slidable member with respect to the retainer; and

hanging at least one item on the slidable member.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein there is a mounting strip coupled to the retainer.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein there is a support strip disposed between the mounting strip and the retainer.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein there is a reinforcement insert coaxially disposed within the retainer.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the reinforcement member comprises wood.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the reinforcement member further comprises plastic.